

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

January 15, 1964

Honorable J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel
The President's Commission
200 Maryland Avenue, N. E.
Washington, D. C. 20002

Dear Mr. Rankin:

At the request of Assistant Attorney General Herbert J. Miller, Jr., Dallas County District Attorney Henry Wade was interviewed on January 14, 1964. He was asked to state specifically and categorically wherein the preparation of his case is in any way handicapped by lack of access to material in the possession of the Federal Government.

Mr. Wade when interviewed indicated he cannot state how he is handicapped as he does not know what information has been collected by the Federal Government but he believes the investigation has developed information concerning Ruby's background and associates. He said that without reviewing the oral and written statements taken by the Federal Government, he has no way of knowing what they contain.

Insofar as Texas Attorney General Waggoner Carr is concerned, Wade said Mr. Carr has no authority to speak for him and Mr. Wade has never stated he was handicapped by not having statements that are in the possession of the FBI. He said that he has made it known that he needs all available information concerning the background and associates of Jack Ruby and the circumstances surrounding the shooting of Lee Harvey Oswald. The Dallas Police Department conducted very little investigation concerning Ruby as it spent most of its time submitting a report defending itself with regard to the shooting of Oswald.

Mr. Wade wants the results of FBI investigation for use in cross-examining Ruby and any character witnesses who testify.

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Mr. Wade submitted the following letter to the FBI office in Dallas on January 14, 1964.

"As you are aware, we have a bond hearing on Jack Ruby set on January 20 and the trial for the murder of Lee Oswald set for February 3 in Criminal District Court No. 3 of Dallas County, Texas. In that trial all of the information we can gather with reference to the background of Jack Ruby from the time he was born up to the present, the names of all his business or social associates together with what they might have said concerning him or his mental capacity will be very important. I feel that you have some of this information or all of it in your present files. I would appreciate your obtaining the following:

"1. Copies of all interviews had by your Agents concerning Jack Ruby or any of his associates.

"2. The names of any persons in any way connected with Ruby together with their statements made concerning him.

"3. Any physical evidence that you might have in the Ruby case.

"4. Any summary you might have of the whole activities of Ruby during and at the time of this murder.

"5. Any statements that you might have tending to show any connection between Oswald and Ruby.

"6. Any statements that you might have dealing with whether or not Ruby belonged or had belonged to any subversive groups.

"7. Copies of the interviews had by your Agents at the City Hall and also the Dallas County Jail and what Ruby told them.

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"None of this information will be released to the press, radio or television, nor to anyone else outside of this office, and will be used exclusively in the trial of this case for the purposes of cross-examining the defendant should he testify and also cross-examining the character witnesses, and should any of these witnesses wherein you have a statement from them testify, if they vary from the statements made to your Agent, they will be used for the purpose of cross-examining this witness. I hope that this can be arranged as soon as possible since we will have to read and digest these prior to the trial on February 3."

This information has been furnished to Assistant Attorney General Miller.

Please advise us as to the action the Commission plans to take regarding Mr. Wade's request.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover